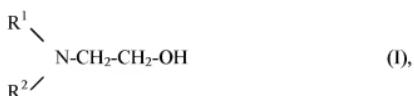


Listing of claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended). A chemical composition comprising:
 - (a) from 0.005 to 3 wt% of sclerotium gum;
 - (b) from 0.005 to 3 wt% of a copolymer selected from the group consisting of methyl vinyl ether/ maleic anhydride copolymer and acryloyldimethyltaurate vinylpyrrolidone copolymer, in particular the ammonium salt of the latter; and
 - (c) a suitable an aqueous carrier, and
 - (d) at least 0.5 wt.% of at least one electrolyte, wherein the pH of the composition ranges from about 4.5 to about 8.
2. (Currently Amended). A chemical composition according to claim 1, further comprising (d) one or more electrolytes wherein said copolymer is an ammonium salt of acryloyldimethyltaurate vinylpyrrolidone copolymer.
3. (Currently Amended). A chemical composition according to claim 1 comprising:
from 0.005 to 1 wt% of said sclerotium gum and
from 0.005 to 1 wt% of said copolymer.
4. (Cancelled).
5. (Cancelled).
6. (Currently Amended). A composition according to claim 1-4, wherein the electrolyte is ~~an~~ effective amount of at least one ethanolamine derivative of formula I, or a topically acceptable salt thereof:



Wherein wherein in formula I, R¹ and R² independently represent hydrogen, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl or C₁₋₆ alkyl, optionally substituted with hydroxy, methoxy, oxo or formyl.

7. (Previously Presented). A formulation according to claim 6 wherein the ethanolamine of formula I is a mixed glycolate/citrate salt of dimethylethanolamine.

8. (Currently Amended) A formulation according to claim 1-5, wherein the electrolyte is a Vitamin C salt.

9. (Cancelled).